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I would call attention to the contrast between the attitude, indicated above, of certain officials who are hostile to inoculation, and the reports of those others like Captain Smith (see my letter of June 4, 1904), who, after an enormous personal experience with inoculation, testify unreservedly to its benefits.

Reports from Calcutta—Inspection of vessel—Cholera and plague mortality.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakins reports, September 15 and 22, as follows:

During the week ended September 10, 1904, bill of health was issued to steamship *Schwarzenfels*, bound for Boston and New York, with a total crew of 50. The usual precautions were taken; effects of Lascars were fumigated, rat guards placed on wharf lines, and cargo compartments fumigated.

Week ended September 17, no transactions.

During the week ended September 10, 1904, there were 5 deaths from cholera and no deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal during the week ended September 3, 1904, there were 469 cases and 375 deaths from plague.

In India during the week ended August 27, 1904, there were 11,560 cases and 8,304 deaths from plague.

During the week ended September 17, 1904, there were 3 deaths from cholera and 2 deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal for the week ended September 10, 1904, there were 581 cases and 500 deaths from plague.

In India for the week ended September 3, 1904, there were 13,862 cases and 10,199 deaths.

Improvement in weather conditions—No further fear of famine.

Heavy showers have been reported from the Deccan during the past few days, the fall being general and widely distributed. The districts which were most seriously menaced with famine are Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Bijapur. In many cases the rain has come too late to save anything save a small proportion of the crops. This timely rainfall quite dissipates the serious prospects of famine which have hung over the Deccan since the monsoon current so unaccountably failed.

Scarcity will be felt in some parts, but there are no grounds now for anticipating actual famine conditions. The rainfall has been so copious that the shortage of water will be materially reduced. The present outlook is so fair that it has been considered expedient to postpone the opening of relief works.

Sanitary department to be created by the Government of India.

It is the intention of the Government of India to create a sanitary department with a central laboratory at headquarters and a provincial laboratory in each of the larger provinces. This department is to be quite distinct and apart from the Indian medical service, and its commissioner, although probably an Indian medical service man, will be distinct from the director-general, Indian medical service. The object

of the department is a complete reorganization of the sanitary department as it now exists, the provision of a competent scientific agency for the investigation of the prevalent diseases and the improvement of general conditions of life in India.

ITALY.

Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Cholera in various countries—Quarantine regulations against Egypt and the Black Sea—Contagious diseases in Italy—Precautions against the sleeping sickness.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, September 26, as follows: During the week ended September 24, 1904, the following ships were inspected at Naples:

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Sept. 20	Canopic.....	Boston.....	361	95	650	5
22	Lombardia.....	New York.....	260	55	530	13
23	Buenos Aires.....	do.....	232	30	420	11
23	Prinzess Irene.....	do.....	301	100	550	9
23	Italia.....	do.....	314	110	670	16

Cholera in Asiatic Russia.

A report, dated September 19, from Constantinople states that owing to 4 cases of Asiatic cholera at Baku, arrivals from Batum are submitted to a medical visit and to disinfection. Under date of August 23, 51 cases of cholera and 13 deaths were reported at Merv, in Transcaspian Russia.

Cholera in Turkey.

For the week ended August 20, there were 425 cases of Asiatic cholera and 327 deaths in the Vilayets of Bagdad, Bassora, and Mosul. In order to protect the Vilayet of Bagdad against the epidemic in Persia and Mosul, the lazaret of Haneguine has been duly prepared for arrivals from Persia. Two other lazarets have been installed at Deli-Abbas and Tikrit for the arrivals from the Vilayets of Mosul, either by river or by land. The required personnel has been sent there to execute the quarantine regulations. The sanitary commission of Bagdad, composed of civil and military surgeons, has adopted the required measures. By means of measures already carried out the disease has been uprooted in the main epidemic centers, such as Hille, Kerbellah, Nedjeff, Kiasmieh, Haneguine, Samawa, Hindieh, and Divanieh.

Cholera in Persia.

At the end of July the epidemic of Asiatic cholera had spread all over Persia, but was diminishing in Teheran and neighborhood, after having claimed between 10,000 and 15,000 victims. In general, Europeans and prominent natives, who have taken proper precaution-